

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EUR-12 ISO-00 EA-12 NEA-10

AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-07 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-08 EPA-04 INR-07 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00

PM-05 USIA-15 OES-07 SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 FEA-01

AGRE-00 OIC-02 /167 W

-----112369 061136Z /17

P R 060843Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1103

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS NAIROBI 11443

FROM USDEL DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, OCON, UN

SUBJ: UN DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE

1. PLENARY SESSION OF 6TH DAY (SEPTEMBER 5) OF UNCOD  
CONVENED TO HEAR FINAL SPEAKERS IN GENERAL DEBATE. WHILE  
MAJORITY OF PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED TO BE BUSINESSLIKE AND  
TECHNICAL, PROCEEDINGS DID FEATURE SOME POLITICAL POLEMICS  
BETWEEN CYPRIOT AND TURKISH REPRESENTATIVES.

2. NEARLY ALL DELEGATIONS PRAISED PLAN OF ACTION AND  
CONSIDERED IT GOOD BASIS FOR TACKLING PROBLEMS OF DESERTIFI-  
CATION. CHILE NOTED THAT THE INSTITUTIONAL PROCESS ON  
NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS MUST PROVIDE FOR POPULAR  
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PARTICIPATION. VENEZUELA AND THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL YOUTH AND STUDENTS MOVEMENT FOR THE UN  
(ISMUN) BOTH NOTED THAT THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MOST  
AFFECTED BY DESERTIFICATION OFTEN LACK THE FINANCIAL AND  
TECHNOLOGICAL WHEREWITHAL TO COMBAT THE PROBLEM, AND THAT  
THEREFORE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST PROVIDE THIS.  
BRAZIL DREW ATTENTION TO THE SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF

DESERTIFICATION. VENEZUELA AND CHILE BOTH CONSIDERED THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FOLLOW-UP ACTION TO THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE VESTED IN UNEP. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (IUCN) NOTED THAT, IF LOSS OF VEGETATION IS A PRIMARY CAUSE OF DESERTIFICATION, SO RESTORATION OF VEGETATION OFFERS THE BEST REMEDY. HE AND THE REPRESENTATIVE SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF NGOS BOTH NOTED THAT DURING THIS PERIOD OF RESTORATION AND LAND RECOVERY, LOCAL POPULATIONS WILL NEED ASSISTANCE WITH PROVISION OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF FOOD, FODDER AND FUEL.

3. AT END OF HIS PRESENTATION, TURKISH REPRESENTATIVE REFERRED TO CYPRIOT GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT (NAIROBI 11427 NOTAL) THAT WHILE CYPRUS DID NOT SUFFER FROM DESERTIFICATION IT DID SUFFER FROM EXPANSIONIST POLICY OF ITS AGGRESSIVE NEIGHBOR. TURKISH REPRESENTATIVE STATED THAT "REPRESENTATIVE OF GREEK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY" HAD SPOKEN WITH A POLITICAL PURPOSE IN MIND. HE STATED THAT TURKISH ACTION TAKEN ONLY AFTER COUP BY GREEK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY AND THAT HAD TURKEY NOT ACTED, CYPRUS WOULD HAVE LOST ITS INDEPENDENCE. AT END GENERAL DEBATE, CYPRUS REQUESTED FLOOR UNDER RULE 33, WHICH PROVIDES FOR RIGHT OF REPLY. CYPRIOT REPRESENTATIVE TOOK EXCEPTION TO TURK'S REFERENCE TO HIM AS REPRESENTATIVE UNCLASSIFIED

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OF GREEK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY; HE WAS IN FACT A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS. HREFERRING TO TURKISH DELEGATE'S GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT THAT TURKEY HAS ANNUAL 2 1/2 PERCENT POPULATION GROWTH RATE WHICH WOULD CAUSE TURKEY'S POPULATION TO DOUBLE EVERY 25 YEARS, CYPRIOT REPRESENTATIVE SUGGESTED THAT THIS STATISTIC MIGHT BE REAL REASON FOR TURKISH INVASION AND ATTEMPT TO "COLONIZE" CYPRUS. TURKISH REPRESENTATIVE ALSO EXERCISED RIGHT OF REPLY, STATING THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO SPOIL ATMOSPHERE OF CONFERENCE AND THAT HE DID NOT FEEL THAT SUCH A FORUM WAS PROPER PLACE TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT.

4. SUMMING UP GENERAL DEBATE, SECRETARY-GENERAL TOLBA NOTED FOLLOWING MAJOR POINTS:

A. GENERAL AGREEMENT ON ANALYSES PROVIDED IN OVERVIEW AND CASE STUDIES.

B. RECOGNITION OF DESERTIFICATION AS GLOBAL PROBLEM.

C. INAPPROPRIATE LAND USE AS PRIMARY CAUSE OF

DESERTIFICATION (SOME DELEGATIONS HAD ALSO REFERRED TO POLITICAL BACKGROUND OF DESERTIFICATION).

D. NEED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS;

E) EXISTENCE OF SUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE TO INITIATE EARLY ACTIONS, BUT DESIRABILITY OF CONTINUED RESEARCH;

F. NEARLY ALL COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY DESERTIFICATION ALREADY HAVE SOME ANTI-DESERTIFICATION PROGRAMS;

G. COUNTRIES DIFFER WIDELY IN SCOPE OF KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE;

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H) SIGNS OF REGIONAL COLLABORATION ARE ENCOURAGING;

8) PROGRAMS TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION ARE PRIMARILY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED. IN THIS CONNECTION, NATIONAL PLANS REQUIRE BROAD-BASED POPULAR SUPPORT;

J) SOME COUNTRIES WHICH DO NOT SUFFER FROM DESERTIFICATION NEVERTHELESS HAVE MUCH SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE TO BRING TO BEAR ON THE PROBLEM; THESE COUNTRIES HAVE ASSURED THE CONFERENCE OF THEIR CONTINUING INTEREST AND COOPERATION.

5. DESCRIBING GENERAL DEBATE AS SOURCE OF EDUCATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT, TOLBA NOTED THAT UNLESS CONFERENCE COMES UP WITH CONCRETE IMPLEMENTATION AND FINANCING PLANS, IT WILL NOT HAVE MET ITS MANDATE AND THE HOPES OF THE WORLD.

6. PLENARY ADJOURNED UNTIL MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 7, AT WHICH TIME IT WILL CONSIDER DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM GENERAL DEBATE.  
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## Message Attributes

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